PRESIDENT: I see that 20 are for, 20 against and 21 are neutral. The rule in these cases is that the President shall preserve the status quo. Therefore I vote against leave to introduce the Bill.

THE TRAVANCORE THATCHAR BILL.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Neyyattinkara cum Trivandrum*): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Travancore Thatchar Bill before this Assembly.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: Sir, I second it.

The Motion was put and carried.

THE TRAVANCORE NADAR BILL.

MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Travancore Nadar Bill before this Assembly.

MR. A. NESAMONY: Sir, I oppose the measure.

MR. S. THIRAVIAM NADAR: Sir, the Nadar community is the third largest Hindu community in Travancore. On a study of the case law relating to the Nadars, I find that there are a series of customs at variance with Hindu law. It is ordinarily said that the Hidnu Mitakshara Law applies to the Nadars of Travancore. But there are various local customs and usages set up at different places against the general trend of Hindu Law. So, rather than leaving this state of affairs as it is, I desire to codify definitely and clearly the law for the Nadars of Travancore. Whether this community requires a special law may be one of the contentions on the opposition side. My answer is that there are a series of enactments for the communities which have only a very nominal population in Travancore. The test whether a section of the people or a particular community requires legislation is not conditioned on the number of the people alone but it depends on whether there is any definite and clear law governing that particular section or community. So far as I can see, I find there is indefiniteness and ambiguity regarding certain principles of law that are applicable to the Nadars, the details of which I do not like to enter into at this stage. The next question I would like to deal is with regard to the latest law report on the subject which is found in 1944 T. L. R. The Christian Succession Act left certain points uncleared and the latest ruling in the T. L. R. referred to has cleared the matter to some extent. So I wanted to put the matter in the form of a Statute basing my principles on the case law reported in T. L. R. In other respects also I think this Bill proposes certain provisions on the lines of the Draft Hindu code that has been published by the Hindu Law Committee in British India. These principles are in consonance with the changed conditions and circumstances of the present day world. So both on principle and expediency this legislation is quite essential for the Nadars of Travancore.

MR. A. NESAMONY: Sir, the rules require that I should be very brief in my remarks, and I will try to be brief, but you will pardon me if I take a few minutes more than the allotted time, in view of the importance of the motion before the House.

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